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Asian Freedom Legion Proposed by Senator

MANILA, May 3 (AP)—An "Asian Freedom Legion" to fight communism was proposed today by United States Senator Thomas J. Dodd at the opening session of the Asian Peoples Anti-Communist League's annual conference here.

The Connecticut Democrat said, "Such an Asian Freedom Legion would stir the imagination of free peoples everywhere if the governments of the Philippines and Thailand and South Korea announced to the world that they were prepared to permit the recruitment of volunteers in their countries to help defend Laos or South Viet Nam or Thailand or any other area that may be threatened by Red imperialism."

Delegates and observers from 35 nations met at the 350-year-old University of Santo Tomas for the league's seventh annual conference.

Senator Dodd, the keynote speaker, attacked what he called the "Munich psychosis" of the Western powers in the cold war with communism, and appealed to Asians to take the initiative in the fight without waiting for the prior consent of the West. He branded the recent foreign ministers' meeting of pessimistic about prospects for the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization as a manifestation of the same weakness that led to concessions to Nazi Germany at Munich in 1938.

Senator Dodd, who is a member of the Foreign Relations Committee, said that while Asian SEATO members were manly and willing to intervene militarily

in Laos if necessary, but Britain and France insisted on further negotiations.

"I am sorry to say that (Britain and France) will prevail," he added.

He declared, however, that the abortive invasion of Cuba had awakened the American people from complacency about the Communist menace.

"The period of blunder and slumber, of retreat and defeat, is now at an end," he said. "We accept the fact of mortal combat with communism."

Senator Dodd described President Kennedy as "a man wholly devoted to the cause of peace but one who will not shrink from the test of war."

The Senator said there was a "three nation control commission" will prove itself useless.

The idea of an Asian volunteer legion was brought up last year by Philippine Congress-Asian SEATO members were manly and willing to intervene militarily